

May 27, 2022

sent via email

Robyn Tingley
Chair
UNB Board of Governors

Dear Ms. Tingley,

Re: Proposed Restructuring

I write on behalf of the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers (AUNBT). I respectfully ask that you please distribute this letter to the members of the UNB Board of Governors (the BoG).

It is AUNBT's understanding that the BoG is currently considering a restructuring of senior leadership at UNB that would result in a shift from a model where each campus has an academic Vice President to one where a Provost oversees the academic portfolio on both campuses.

On this topic, AUNBT has been focused on process and has taken the position that any such change must be grounded in collegial decision-making, undertaken with adequate and meaningful consultation and with a full discussion of the implications for the UNB Act and the AUNBT/UNB Collective Agreement. AUNBT shared these interests with President Mazerolle on December 2, 2021 in a letter that was subsequently posted to the AUNBT website.¹ There has been, to date, no direct response to this letter.

AUNBT has grave concerns with respect to this proposed change and the manner and degree to which members of the university community have (or have not) been meaningfully consulted. You are likely aware that on May 19, 2022, a Joint meeting of the Fredericton and Saint John Senates was held to discuss this topic. You are also likely aware that at this meeting, a motion to pursue the aforementioned restructuring did not receive the support of the Saint John Senate. The discussion that occurred in that forum also made it abundantly clear that the proposal and approach to consultation related thereto have enflamed bi-campus relationships and exacerbated feelings of mistrust and resentment.

In light of the foregoing, AUNBT implores the BoG to not proceed with the proposed restructuring until the concerns of academic staff (and in particular those on the Saint John campus) can be meaningfully considered and better understood. AUNBT reminds you that successfully negotiated changes to the AUNBT/UNB Collective Agreement will be required for the proposed restructuring of senior leadership at UNB to take effect, and AUNBT's engagement on this topic is tied to its views of the process-related interests articulated above and in AUNBT's letter to Dr. Mazerolle of December 2, 2021.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melissa White
President, AUNBT

Cc: Dr. Paul Mazerolle, UNB President
Sarah DeVarenne, University Secretary

¹ <https://www.aunbt.ca/2022/02/01/provost-position/>